

# Local-content English Expression for Homestay Host

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**Abstract** - Becoming homestay hosts for foreigners is not easy as they have to have English skill to communicate with the guests. They need to master, at least, the English expressions to serve the guests at their house. In addition, they also need to understand their local culture to be shown to the guests. To equip the homestay hosts with English speaking skill which has local-content, an investigation on what English expressions needed and what local culture can be embedded into the lesson was done. By interviewing ten homestay hosts in Kandri village, a tourism village in Semarang, local culture of the village was explored to be included in English for Homestay host module. Therefore, this paper aims to describe what local-content English expressions will be in the module of English for Homestay host.

**Keywords:** *local-content, English expression, homestay*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Semarang, the capital city of Central Java, Indonesia has some tourist objects that attract many domestic and foreign visitors. The tourist objects vary from culinary, shopping, cultural, historical, religious, and natural places. One of places that has culinary, cultural, historical, religious, and natural places at one place is Kandri. Kandri, a small village in Gunungpati, Semarang, has been crowned as a tourism village by the local government [1]. Kandri Village has not only some beautiful tourist spots but also enthusiastic residents who are motivated to keep their culture. Supporting this title, the government has started to develop the infrastructure needed, like the road, bus shelters, and homestays [2].

The homestays are available for tourists who come to the village, want to stay there, and feel the natural ambiance of the village. Becoming a good homestay host is not easy. A homestay host should meet the requirements stated by tourism ministry, in terms of their readiness to provide service to tourists, like the house and the host [3]. Some houses in Kandri village are ready and turn themselves become homestays. In 2019, there will be an international folklore festival in Semarang [4]. People from different countries will join the festival to show their cultures. Semarang government wants to show Kandri as one of Semarang's potentials. It means that people in Kandri village must be ready to meet people from around the world, including the homestay hosts. The homestay hosts are preparing themselves to serve the guests.

One of the things should be prepared is their ability to communicate with foreigners. Based on the interview done earlier, the homestay hosts' English-speaking skill is still limited and are not confident to speak in English. At the same time, they are also afraid that they cannot introduce their culture to the guests coming to their village and that they will lose their identity when they speak English. As we know that we cannot separate its culture to the language we learn [5]. When we learn a language, we need to learn the culture of the language use. English has its own culture, and Indonesian or Javanese also has their own culture. The homestay hosts want to learn how to speak English well, and they also want to show that they also have their Javanese culture that foreigners need to know. The knowledge of culture from both languages (sociolinguistic knowledge) is needed to complete the communicative competence of the users [6], in this case the homestay hosts who are basically Javanese. Seeing this fact, materials to train the homestay hosts English speaking skill that also shows Javanese culture are needed to be developed.

## II. METHODOLOGY

To develop the English for homestay hosts module, Research and Development approach is employed [7]. As it is an English for Specific Purpose (ESP) module, it must be developed based on the user's need [8]. To explore the homestay hosts' need, observation and interview to 10 homestay hosts in Kandri were done to get information about what English expressions they need to serve the guests in their house and what culture they want to preserve and show to the guests that will be embedded to module. Based on the result of the interview, the English for homestay hosts is developed.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A. English expressions needed by the homestay hosts in Kandri

In order to be able to serve the guests from foreign countries well, the homestay hosts in Kandri need to master some basic English expressions as their English proficiency level is still low. They stated that they need to learn the English expressions of greetings and introduction, offering things and help, showing directions, asking for preference, thanking, and complimenting. They think that, based on the experience

they have, those expressions are needed when guests stay at their house. Expressions of greetings and introductions are the expressions they use the first time they meet their guests. Those expressions help them to know the guests better and give good impression to their guests. The other expressions mentioned are needed when they serve the guests in their house.

#### B. Local culture preserved in Kandri

Culture cannot be separated from the language use. If we separate culture and language, we will get confused in understanding the language [9]. Not only that, it may cause problem if we do not have enough knowledge on the culture of the language. In addition, culture reflects the people's values, attitudes, and beliefs [10]. This study focuses on the culture of people in Kandri Village. They are Javanese people who are still strongly holding Javanese culture. Based on the interview and observation, the followings are the local culture tried to be preserved by Kandri people.

- 1). They have to be friendly to everyone, including strangers.
- 2). They have to respect the elder.
- 3). They are religious.
- 4). They have to respect their guests.
- 5). They should not reveal their feelings directly.

The values mentioned above can be seen on the way the people live and use their language. The values will be embedded to the ESP module developed for the homestay hosts, especially those who live in this village. The local content English expressions are made to help them acquire English expressions and show their beliefs at the same time.

#### C. Local-content English expressions for homestay hosts

Based on the data gathered above, the module of English for Homestay hosts is developed. The module consists of 5 units; each is talking about one English expression needed: greetings and introduction, offering things and help, showing directions, asking for preference, thanking, and complimenting. In each unit, the module provides information about English expressions that can be used and also dialog samples that are developed to accommodate the need of showing the local culture. The followings are dialog samples that include the English expressions and how the local culture is embedded.

- a) Dialog sample using expression of greetings and introduction

##### Dialog 1

Host : Hello, good morning. How are you?  
 Guest : I am great, thanks. What about you?  
 Host : I am fine, too. Thank you. I am Dani.  
 What's your name?  
 Guest : I am Toni.

Host : Where are you from?  
 Guest : I am from New York.  
 Host : oh, New York. Is it in America?  
 Guest : Yes, you are right.  
 Host : When did you come here? How long will you be here?  
 Guest : I arrived in Indonesia yesterday. May be I will be here until Sunday.

The dialog above shows one cultural value held by Javanese. They show that they are friendly. The way Javanese people show their friendliness is by asking questions. This is to show that they welcome the guest. Javanese people do not like to feel lonely [11], so they also think that they should not make the guest feel lonely.

##### Dialog 2

Host 1 : Toni, this is my parents, Pak Pardi and Bu Ida.  
 Guest : Hello, I am Toni.  
 Host 1 : Pak, this is Toni. He will stay here for three days.  
 Guest : Yes, Pak. I will stay here until weekend.  
 Host 2 : Yes, please. Welcome to our simple house. I hope you enjoy your stay here.

The cultural value showed in the second dialog is that Javanese are respectful and polite. One of the ways they use to show their respect is by using kinship terms, like *pak* and *bu* [12]. They cannot call the elder by their name only. Therefore, the Javanese kinship terms are used. The homestay hosts prefer not to translate the kinship terms they used into English to show this culture to the guests.

- b) Dialog sample using expression of offering help and things

##### Dialog 1

Host : Welcome to our house. Please, have a seat. Let's have lunch together.  
 Guest : Thank you.  
 Host : Before we eat, let's pray first. (pray) Please, enjoy the food and drink.  
 Guest : Thank you. (*The guest starts eating*)  
 Host : Is it nice? It is *sego kethek*.  
 Guest : Yes, it is very nice. What is it?  
 Host : It is special food from our village. We usually eat it when we work together. The rice is served in teak-leaf wrap. We serve *sego kethek* by giving this food to someone sitting next to us until everyone gets *sego kethek*. Then, we eat together.  
 Guest : It must be very nice having lunch together.  
 Host : Yes, it is. Please, take some more food.  
 Guest : Thank you, Ibu, but I am already full.  
 Host : You should have more egg.  
 Guest : No, thank you, ibu. It is enough.

The dialog above shows that Javanese is religious. They make God as the center of everything [13]. Before they do an activity, they always remember God by praying. Another value shown in the dialog is that they do not accept any direct refusal on offer. Direct refusal is also considered impolite [14]. They think if the person they offered something refuses, the person only tries to be polite. Therefore, they will try to offer it again to maintain their communication [15]

### Dialog 2

Host 1 : This is *Lumpia Pohong*. It is *Lumpia* with cassava inside.

Guest : Wow, it looks nice.

Host 1 : What do you want to drink? We have *dawet sayur* and ice tea?

Guest : *Dawet sayur*? What is it?

Host 1 : It is special drink of *Kandri*. It is made of vegetables.

Guest : It sounds interesting. May be, I will try that one. Thank you.

*After they finished their food.*

Host 2 : Do you want to take a rest?

Guest : Yes, Dani. Can you show me my room?

Host 2 : Sure. Let me help you with your bag.

Guest : No, I can handle it myself.

Another Javanese cultural value shown in the dialog above is that Javanese always respect their guest. They show it by serving the guests as best as they can; they serve the best food, and even provide extra help although it is unnecessary.

- c) Dialog sample using expression of showing direction

### Dialog 1

Guest : Can you show me where the bathroom is?

Host : Sure. The bathroom is at the back of the house. From here, you pass the dining room, and then turn right. It is in the corner.

Guest : Ok. After the dining room, turn right. Thank you.

### Dialog 2

Guest : I heard that there is a big and famous spring here.

Host : Yes, you are right. We have some springs here, which we call *Sendang*. One of them is big and sacred. It is called *Sendang Gedhe*. This is a special spring. When you go there in the afternoon, the water is so fresh, but when you go there in the evening, the water is warm.

Guest : Wow, that's cool. Can you show me the way there?

Host : it is near from here. From this house, you need to walk to turn left. Just follow the road for about 100 meters. *Sendang Gedhe* will be across the road.

Guest : That's good then. I can walk there.

Host : Oh, I can go with you.

The cultural values shown in the dialogs above have been discussed in the previous part; Javanese are helpful and respectful. In the dialogs above, they show it by showing direction. Another thing to be shown is that they offer to accompany the guests. For them, it is best if they can accompany the guests to go to the place they want. They should not let the guests go by themselves. That is also considered impolite.

- d) Dialog sample using expression of preference

### Dialog 1

Host : What would you like to drink?

Guest : Anything.

Host : Would you prefer to drink something hot or cold?

Guest : In this sunny day, I think I prefer something cold.

Host : OK. You should try this drink, *dawet sayur*. It is a special drink from this village.

### Dialog 2

Host : We have some products made by our community.

Guest : Wow, really? What is it?

Host : We make some products from cassava. We make chips, *gethuk*, and lumpia from it.

Guest : I think I should try.

Host : Yes, you should. Which one do you want to try first?

Guest : The chips, may be.

Host : We have some flavor, original, barbeque, and balado.

Guest : I want to try the original one. May I?

Host : Sure, why not. Here it is.

Still about respecting the guests, the hosts will offer everything they have to be served to the guests.

- e) Dialog sample using expression of thanking and complimenting

### Dialog 1

Host : Today, I make *sayur lodeh* and *rempeyek*.

Guest : Wow, what is it? I never heard it before.

Host : This is Javanese traditional food. You should try.

Guest : Sure, I will try. Wow, it is very nice. I never eat something like this before. You are a good cook, *ibu*.

Host : I just cook like usual, nothing special.

Guest : But it is so special. I like it.

Host : Thank you.

## Dialog 2

- Guest : This is time for me to leave. Thank you very much for everything.
- Host : No problem. We also thank you for your stay here. We hope you enjoy it although our place is not good.
- Guest : Definitely, I enjoy every moment I have here. Hopefully I have another chance to visit you again next time.
- Host : We also hope we can see you again.

The dialogs above show that Javanese people are humble. The humility can be seen from the way they respond to compliment given. Javanese do not accept compliments directly; they will show their humility to respond to compliments before they accept the compliments.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Culture cannot be separated from language use. Learning English means that we learn the culture of English when the language is used too. However, we can also embed our own culture when we speak English. The Javanese culture to be shown and preserved by the homestay hosts of Kandri can be seen implicitly from the dialog they usually use when they serve the guests. Although this study is limited only to Javanese, it shows that it is possible to embed our culture when we use foreign language. The local content helps the homestay hosts learn English and maintain their culture at the same time.

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